development. The development works at all these airports will be completed by March, 2010.

(b) Patna airport has been identified as one of the 35 non-metro airports for development. Extension of runway and construction of new integrated cargo complex are proposed subject to availability of land from the State Government and removal of obstacles in the approach path of proposed runway extension. At Gaya airport, a new integrated terminal building for 500 passengers, expansion of apron to accommodate big aircraft etc. have been completed and they are in operation. Provision of ILS has also been taken up.

(c) and (d) Government have laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the counrty including North-East region. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government in this regard. Further, Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, Jet Lite, Air Deccan are already operating their flights through Patna airport.

Establishment of Chopper Pilot Training Institute

1089. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

whether Government proposes to set up a Chopper Pilot Training Centre in Bangalore;

if so, the time frame set to commence the training;

the total number of Chopper Pilots that would be trained every year;

whether there would be any provisions and relaxation for SC/ST candidates; and

whether there would be a quota to train women candidate as Chopper Pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no proposal to establish Helicopter Training Centre in Bangalore under the aegis to this Ministry. However, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Defence Production is imparting ab-initio flying training since year 2000 for Commercial Helicopter Pilot's Licence.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of new aviation training institute

1090. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

whether it is proposed to set up new aviation training institutes to tackle pilot shortage;

if so, the details thereof alongwith its locations;

what is the current shortage of trained pilots in the country; and

the interim action plan of Government to fill this gap to meet the needs of growing air traffic in the country?